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By: [Signature]

Date: Jan 14, 2003

14/ Election  
1-14-03  
A.Wash

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gerhard Beitel et al.  
Applic. No. : 09/734,467  
Filed : December 11, 2000  
Title : Methods for Producing a Structured Metal Layer  
Examiner : J. L. Brophy  
Group Art Unit : 2822

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

R E S P O N S E

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D. C. 20231

S i r :

Responsive to the Office Action dated December 16, 2002, the following remarks are made:

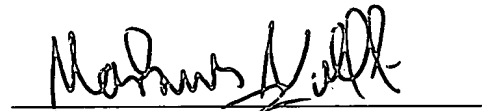
In deference to the election requirement on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, Applicants elects species I (applying a precious metal and a donor material followed by heat treatment to form an alloy layer) for prosecution at this time.

Applicants will consider in due time whether or not to file a divisional for the non-elected species.

The following claims read on species I: claims: 1-7, 11-13, 15, 17, and 19-24.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits, and the allowance of the claims are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mahesh D. All", is written over a horizontal line.

For Applicants  
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